

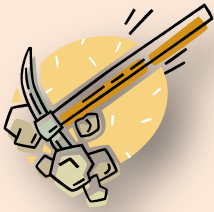
A Controlled Burn

Have you seen the reports of the fires in California? Firemen from all over the country came to battle these fires that rage uncontrolled. If the winds pick up, sparks fly, and houses burn. The fire consumes everything in its path. In order to fight the fires, they dropped chemicals from the sky, and employed an army of fire fighters. There is a preventive procedure they use when things are not so dry. It is called a “controlled burn.” The fire fighters deliberately burn areas to get rid of the underbrush, thus reducing the potential fuel for a bigger fire when it might be uncontrolled.

Christians should practice a controlled burn in their lives. They should deliberately remove that which might cause a catastrophe later. There is a lot of potential fuel in our lives wanting to be set ablaze. If we don’t take care of this, it could ignite and cause a major crisis in our lives. Others will have to be called in to help put out the fire.

In order to have a controlled burn, we have to take the preventive initiative. You can’t sit back and passively hope no one carelessly ignites the kindling in your life. In Psalm 19:12-14, David was concerned about the underbrush in his life. He wanted God to do a controlled burn in his life. He knew he had secret faults (12) that he might not fully understand. We don’t think that things like anger or bitterness, or envy are problems. But if we look around, these are some things that could be easily ignited. In verse 13, David prays that he might be kept from “presumptuous sins.” He did not want them to have “dominion over him.” He did not want them to develop into “the great transgression.” He wanted even his words and thoughts judged.

As believers, we need to thin out, clear out, and burn these things to help prevent some great transgression in our lives. Let me suggest some practical suggestions. If pornography is a problem, use a filter on your computer, or don’t use the computer at all. Don’t subscribe to magazines that can stimulate your lust. If you can’t control your appetite, or habits control what is available, take away the stimulus. If you lack financial control, cut up your credit cards. If you prone to gossip, cut it off before you start. Stay off the phone or “facebook.”



The underbrush in your life is probably different than mine, but the truth is, we all need a "controlled burn." Allow God's Spirit to remove the tinder before there is a major fire.



WOMEN WHO WORSHIP - By Dot Davis

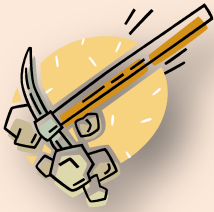
A Healthy Hatred

"Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:6).

I was having a deep conversation at my kitchen table--with a little tyke of about 5 or 6 years of age. We had been talking about spiritual things, and suddenly he blurted out, "I hate this sin in me! Why didn't God take it out of me when I got saved?" At that moment, I was awed by the insight children can have. But then as the Scripture says, God reveals deep things unto babes (Luke 10:21).

Our present culture has advanced the notion that humans are born in innocence and inclined to be naturally good. In addition, we are continually urged to love ourselves, look out for ourselves as number one, and please ourselves in every way. The "experts" tell us that we're not to think anything bad about ourselves or we will lack "self-esteem." But God's Word stands in complete opposition to this for it begins with another premise: we are sinners. In the pages of the Bible, we encounter ourselves as human beings born with a sinful predisposition and inclined to be disobedient to God. We live life loving ourselves, looking out for ourselves, pleasing ourselves, and demanding what we want. Therefore, The Word instructs us to think realistically about ourselves; we must admit our sinfulness and selfishness. Rather than pumping ourselves full of "self-esteem," the best approach to life is to gain Scriptural knowledge about who we really are and what God can really do for us.

So then, are we to hate ourselves? No, not in the sense of hating our being and personhood. In fact God declares our infinite value in the fact that He chose to design and create us (Psalm 139:14). Our bodies, souls, and spirits are so priceless to Him that He sent His beloved Son to earth to die an agonizing death on the cross



June 2009 Nuggets

First Baptist Church XLIV No 527

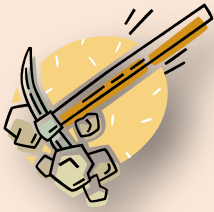
to free us from sin's penalty and power. The hatred is to be directed at that which dwells within us: sin, sin in "the flesh." A recognition and abhorrence for that condition will lead us to true spiritual health and growth.

As Job suffered, he went from being a somewhat proud, self-righteous saint to one who would say, "I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes." The man who was "upright" at the beginning of the book was actually more godly and spiritual at the end, as he realized his sinfulness before an awesome and holy God. This same realization is echoed by David in Psalm 16:2 when he declared, "I said to the Lord, 'You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing.'" and Paul when he stated in Romans 7:18, "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing..."

Unfortunately, while as children we may admit our sinful struggle, as adults, we may become deceitfully skillful at denying it (Jeremiah 17:9). In order to grow and mature--to become like Christ--we must come to the point that we abhor our sinful thoughts, attitudes, words, and actions and confess them to God. Do you truly hate the sin within?

Special Sundays in June

Every Sunday this month features something special: On June 7th Dave and Doris Totman will be with us. They are supported missionaries serving in Ghana, Africa. Come and here how the work is going there. On June 14th, it's Children's Day. We have planned our Morning Service around the boys and girls. There will be a Junior Sermon, a DVD, and we will be explaining our Communion Service on a kid's level. We hope to involve the children in the Morning Worship. It's Father's Day on June 21st and Pastor plans to speak on "Battlements For the Home." We would like to provide Dads with a reminder of what they need to include in the building of a home. On the last Sunday of June, we will observe Graduate Sunday and will recognize the class of 2009.



Pastor's Desk



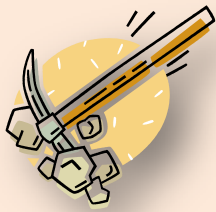
I would like to report a case of desk unfaithfulness. Last week Pastor unplugged his computer and took a brief case of books over to his mother-in-law's. He set up a study in a room they cleared out, and can you imagine used another desk. She is an older cute little thing and pastor says he now has to study over there sometimes. I thought I was the only desk in his life, but it seems that he has found another. Pastor explains that his wife has moved to Endicott because she needs to take care of her mother full time. Pastor has been commuting, but find its convenient to study over there at the other desk once in awhile. If you call the office here or the parsonage and you can't get a hold of them, you might try 748-4039.

Pastor says the summer apprenticeship program has begun with Ben Baker again. He will be meeting with Ben on Tuesdays to discuss ministry things. Ben will be preaching a couple of times this summer. I wonder if he could use a partially used desk.

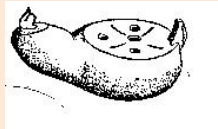
Pastor finished the series of messages on being "more than conquerors" and intends to begin messages from I John. He says that he wants to lead studies this year on John's writings since he is the disciple of love, and our theme this year is Love, Inc. (I Thessalonians 3:12). He won't be speaking much through this month on the Gospel of John during the Sunday morning because we have some special emphasis Sundays.

Business Meeting - June 3rd

At the beginning of June you can decide on one of two services to attend. On June 8th, the Presbyterian church in Binghamton will hold its 12th annual People of Blessing Service. An interfaith coalition on sexual identity promoting the gay life style. Better yet, come to our church business meeting on June 3rd when we intend to promote an amendment to our church constitution on the subject of human sexuality and marriage. In our State of New York the legislature is attempting to pass legislation that would legalize homosexual marriage.



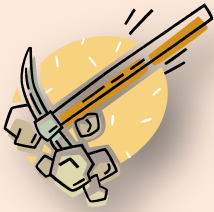
While we are not homophobic, we do believe the Scripture clearly speaks on this matter of marriage, and we want to identify ourselves with the scriptural view. The proposed amendment will require every member to consent to the statement on marriage. You can find a copy of the amendment on the bulletin board. The day may come when we will be persecuted for holding biblical views, but we must stand against the world and be separate from it while at the same time, welcoming of others with different views to our church services.



A Lamp Unto My Feet - by Dr. Robert Williams

Eirene (Peace) is used 87 times in the New Testament. This is a word that can be translated as harmony, welfare, health, or it may be translated by paraphrase as “messianic salvation,” but the translation “peace” will do well in all 87 uses. Isaiah 26:3 reads, “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is staid on thee.” Isaiah 28:22 reads, “There is no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked.” In Isaiah 535, “the chastisement of our peace was upon him.” This verse corresponds to Romans 5:1, “We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” One of the theological crown jewels is Colossians 1:20, “And having made peace through the blood of his cross.”

With these thoughts our minds are centered on the Messianic theology of this great word, peace, and its redemptive history and meaning. In Isaiah 9:6, the child born, the son given, is “the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.” In Romans 3:21-26, the word “peace” is not used, but these six verses form the heart of the gospel. Apart from the blood of Jesus Christ shed on the cross, there is no peace. We have, in Romans 3:21-26, the righteousness of God apart from the law, the righteousness of God by faith of Jesus Christ, justification through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, and our substitute (propitiation) through faith in His blood. Ephesians 2:11-18 tells us Gentiles that we are made nigh by the blood of Christ (2:13), that Christ effects peace for both Israelites and Gentiles through breaking down the partition that separated the two groups, so that reconciliation could be preached to both by the preachment of peace (2:16-17). Both now have access to the Father through saving faith that results in peace. In



Acts 10:36, Peter proclaimed his textual, theological treatise, “preaching peace by Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all).”

Awana

First Baptist Church in Newark Valley has the oldest Awana Clubs in the East. The church celebrated their 50th Anniversary with a banquet. Former members, leaders, parents and grandparents came to the Annual Award’s Banquet where clubbers were awarded for their efforts this past year. Pastor Rollin Howard, pastor of the Ross Corners Baptist Church, himself a former member of the club, was the speaker. He shared memories of his days in Awana and some of the things he learned during game time and handbook time. The highest awards in the Spark’s Club went to Haley Osburn and Derrick Barto. Renee Wilcox received a second book award in the Truth and Training Club and Danielle Barto received a Fourth Book Award. Certificates for faithful leadership were handed out to leaders and helpers to the following people:

- 1 year- Darlene Bowen, Don Geiger, Pat Geiger, Chad Goodrich, Howard Walter, Irene Welch.
- 3 years - Vicki Graham, Gloria Massey, Syd Massey, Helen Walter
- 4 years - Mike Davies, Evans Singer
- 7 years - Reiko Mills
- 9 years - Bill Casey
- 14 years - Dennis Spencer
- 15 years - Pastor and Joyce Middaugh
- 19 years - Ruth Strong
- 20 years - Cora Jean Whitmarsh
- 21 years - Irene Riechers
- 22 years - Peg Hochberg, Pastor and Joanie Spiegel
- 32 years - Mary Shellhammer
- 33 years - Joanne Card
- 37 years - Nel Briggs
- 39 years - Marie Ketchum
- 42 years - Bill Briggs